

shows a further column with the decimal value which is output on account of the transition bit error.

A transition bit error normally occurs near the region in which the code has its intended transitions between
5 zeros and ones. In order to eliminate such errors caused by transition bit errors, conversion circuits are often equipped with a correction circuit, as are described for example in the document EP 632 598 B1 already cited.

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The disadvantage of such error eliminating circuits consists primarily in the fact that this necessitates a further circuitry outlay for eliminating errors in addition to the considerable circuitry outlay for the converter. However, the additional circuitry outlay required for this is in turn detrimental to the performance, in this case in particular the rapidity,
15 of the conversion circuit, so that such conversion circuits are only suitable for converting thermometer codes having a low number of bits.

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Therefore, the present invention is based on the object of providing a fastest possible conversion arrangement and a fastest possible conversion method for converting a thermometer code into a binary code. A further object of the invention is to provide a simplified arrangement in comparison with conventional converters.

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These objects are achieved according to the invention
30 by means of a converter arrangement having the features of Patent Claim 1 and a method having the features of Patent Claim 13.

Accordingly, provision is made of:

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A converter arrangement for converting a binary input signal corresponding to an n-bit thermometer code into a binary output code different therefrom,

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Amendments to the Specification

Please delete the word "Description" at page 1, line 1.

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 6:

Field of the Invention

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 11:

EP 0 221 238 A2 describes a thermometer-to-binary coder in which the thermometer code to be converted is divided into J subgroups each of K bits and each subgroup by itself is converted into a binary code. In this case, the individual thermometer-to-binary coder for each subgroup is constructed for example from a first number of AND gates and subsequent second number of OR gates. The binary output codes of the individual thermometer-to-binary coders for each subgroup are summed in an addition stage and the final binary output code having a width of 7 bits is thus generated.

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 11:

Background

Please insert the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 4, line 1:

Summary

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